

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:
a reader, arranged to read a document image;
a recognition section, arranged to recognize
5 character strings of the read document image;
an extractor, arranged to extract a character
string indicating contents of a document from the
recognized character strings; and
a synthesizer, arranged to synthesize and output
10 speech based on the chosen character string.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
extractor extracts the character string indicating the
contents of the document on the basis of the recognized
character string, a location of the character string on
15 the document image, a character size and color, and
vertical or horizontal writing.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
extractor extracts a title of each page of the
document.
- 20 4. An information processing apparatus comprising:
a reader, arranged to read a document image;
a recognition section, arranged to recognize
character strings of the read document image;
an extractor, arranged to extract character
25 strings indicating pages of documents from the
recognized character strings;
a determiner, arranged to determine a page order

of documents and/or omission of a page on the basis of the extracted character strings; and

an output section, arranged to output speech corresponding to a determination result.

5 5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said output section comprises a synthesizer arranged to synthesize speech that represents the determination result.

6. An information processing apparatus comprising:
10 a reader, arranged to read a document image;
 a recognition section, arranged to recognize character strings of the read document image;

 an extractor, arranged to extract a character string, which represents the number of pages of
15 documents, from character strings recognized from a first page of a document;

 a counter, arranged to count the number of pages of documents;

 a comparator, arranged to compare the extracted
20 character string and a count value of said counter; and

 an output section, arranged to output speech corresponding to a comparison result.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said output section comprises a synthesizer arranged to
25 synthesize speech that represents the comparison result.

8. An information processing method comprising steps

of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read
document image;

5 extracting a character string indicating contents
of a document from the recognized character strings;
and

synthesizing and outputting speech based on the
chosen character string.

10 9. An information processing method comprising steps
of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read
document image;

15 extracting character strings indicating pages of
documents from the recognized character strings;

determining a page order of documents and/or
omission of a page on the basis of the extracted
character strings; and

20 outputting speech corresponding to a
determination result.

10. An information processing method comprising steps
of:

reading a document image;

25 recognizing character strings of the read
document image;

extracting a character string, which represents

the number of pages of documents, from character strings recognized from a first page of a document;
counting the number of pages of documents;
comparing the extracted character string and
5 count value; and
outputting speech corresponding to a comparison result.

11. A computer program product storing a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code, for
10 an information processing method, the method comprising steps of:
reading a document image;
recognizing character strings of the read document image;
15 extracting a character string indicating contents of a document from the recognized character strings;
and
synthesizing and outputting speech based on the chosen character string.

20 12. A computer program product storing a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code, for an information processing method, the method comprising steps of:
reading a document image;
25 recognizing character strings of the read document image;
extracting character strings indicating pages of

documents from the recognized character strings;
determining a page order of documents and/or
omission of a page on the basis of the extracted
character strings; and
5 outputting speech corresponding to a
determination result.

13. A computer program product storing a computer
readable medium comprising a computer program code, for
an information processing method, the method comprising
10 steps of:
reading a document image;
recognizing character strings of the read
document image;
extracting a character string, which represents
15 the number of pages of documents, from character
strings recognized from a first page of a document;
counting the number of pages of documents;
comparing the extracted character string and
count value; and
20 outputting speech corresponding to a comparison
result.